interception of messages under certain circumstances.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Curbing of expenditure on technology

@4470. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN :
SHRI PRITHIBI MAJHI :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has any plans of curbing recurring expenditure on technology transfer;

(b) what measures are being contemplated to ensure that technology transfer payments are kept to the bare minimum; and

(c) whether his Ministry are aware that technology transfer payments can be substantially reduced by insisting on transfer of technology via capital equipment supply?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO) : (a) to (c) The import of technology is basically governed by the Technology Policy Statement of the Government. Import of technology is allowed selectively and only after the evaluation and scrutiny. It is the continuous endeavour of the Government to keep payments for import of technology, including technology via capital equipment supply, to the minimum and steps are taken to strengthen indigenous technology base thereby reducing dependence on foreign technology.

Interim relief for the Master Craftsmen of Heavy Engineering Corporation Ranchi

4471. SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a memorandum signed by about one thousand Master Craftsmen of Heavy Engineering Corporation Limited, Ranchi has been received by Government;

(b) whether they have demanded for the payment of interim relief as is paid to the Chargemen of HEC;

(c) whether it is a fact that the Ranchi of the Patna High Court has observed that Master Craftsmen and Chargemen are equal in all respects;

(d) if so, what are the reasons for not paying interim relief to the Master Craftsmen; and

(e) whether any steps are being taken to pay interim relief to them?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO) :

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

Payment of Interim Relief to Public Sector Units

4472. SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government had sanctioned interim relief to the employees of the public sector

@Previously Unstarred Question 3903, trnasferred from the 30th August, 1988.

units on the 1st January 1986, drawing salaries based on industrial pattern of Dearness Allowance;

(b) if, so, the names of the public sector units under different Ministries where interim relief has been paid to the employees;

(c) the names of public sector units under various Ministries where interim relief has not been paid and the reasons therefor; and

(d) when the interim relief will be paid to the employees of such public sector units?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Financial performance of Units of Bharat Bhari Udyog Nigam Limited

4473. SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of the profit and loss accounts of the constituent units of Bharat Bhari Udyog Nigam Limited for the financial year ended on the 31st March, 1988;

(b) whether there have been any increase or decrease in the profits earned/losses suffered in comparison to the previous year; and

(c) if the loss has been increased during the above period, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO) : (a) and (b) Unit-wise details of profit/loss of constituent Units of Bharat Bhari Udyog Nigam Limited (BBUNL) for the year 1986-87 and 1987-88 are given in the enclosed Statement. (*See* below).

(c) The loss in 1987-88 in the subsidiaries of Bharat Bhari Udyog Nigam Limited has increased over that in 1986-87 due to the following reasons:

One of the main reasons for loss was that the engineering works of all the subsidiaries located in the West Bengal were on 47 days' long strike from 14-12-1987 to 29-1-1988 as part of the general strike in the Public Sector Engineering Industries in West Bengal. Even after the conclusion of the strike and signing of tripartite memorandum of settlement, a time of two weeks was permitted to the workers to rejoin duties. The cumulative effect of this strike was approximately three months during the peak period of activities in the year except Bharat Wagon and Engineering Company Limited and refractory units of Burn Standard Company Limited.

Consequent upon settlement there has also been substantial increase in wages and salaries.

Continued shortage of working capital has also been a major factor for the losses of these units.

Efforts by some of the subsidiaries to bring about improvement in the work culture on a long term